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News in Brief

The State

In what has been called the most important trade secrets case in the history of the industry, Peter K. Gopal, 42, has been convicted of possessing stolen property, bribery and conspiracy in the theft of \$10 million worth of memory chip designs from National Semiconductor Inc. and Zilog Inc. in Santa Clara County's Silicon Valley. Gopal and Andrew Moore were arrested in 1978 after they received \$25,000 in traveler's checks for memory chip designs used in microcircuitry for everything from electronic toys to intercontinental missiles. Moore pleaded guilty earlier. Police said they found business cards from technology acquisition officials from Poland and the Soviet Union when they searched his papers. Gopal, facing up to six years in prison, is scheduled for sentencing in Santa Clara County Superior Court Sept. 14.